

WAVE OF PROTEST SWEEPS JERSEY OVER MOVE FOR HALL CASE MISTRIAL

Shall All This Litigation and Expense Go for Naught?



COURT SCENE AND JURORS in the Hall-Mills murder case at Somerville, N. J. A bombshell has just been thrown into the arena by Landlord Gilbert Vandoren of the Colonial House, who says that nine of the "twelve good men and true," all of whom have been his guests, have given evidence of prejudgment in favor of the three accused. Special Prosecutor Simpson is expected to ask that a mistrial be declared.

Note Charging Jury Bias Written by Tab Reporter

By JACK MILEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 30.—With an acquittal of the three Hall-Mills murder defendants looming more likely than at any time since the case got under way, Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson today began to lay plans for his mistrial motion.

The anticipated move of the prosecutor will be based on a letter received by the court and setting forth that members of the jury are prejudiced and already have made up their minds in favor of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and her brothers, Willie and Henry Stevens. But a new development within the last few hours may prove too big a barrier for even the wily Simpson to hurdle.

Written by Reporter

Gilbert Vandoren, 65-year-old proprietor of the Colonial House, where the jury makes its headquarters, admitted that although his name had been signed to the letter it really was written by Herbert Mayer, a reporter for the New York Mirror.

It was this tabloid which took a leading part in bringing about the investigation which led to the indictment of Mrs. Hall, her brothers and cousin, Henry Carpenter, on a charge of murder.

Further, Mayer was a witness for the prosecution, being one of the first called when the trial got under way.

What effect Mayer's connection with the letter may have on the court is, of course, impossible to say, but it has aroused a storm of indignation here. There are many who profess to see in it a cleverly devised means of obtaining a new trial.

Willing to Testify

On the other hand, Vandoren announced today he is willing to go into court and testify that nine of the twelve men sitting in judgment on the three defendants now on trial decided on the second day to bring in a verdict of not guilty.

Simpson, if he can obtain verification of this, declared he will ask for a mistrial, also claiming that at least one of the jurymen was asleep during the taking of important testimony.

While the court refused to make public the letter bearing Vandoren's name, it was learned that

the missive charged the jury with being openly hostile to the state. Both Simpson and Mrs. Jane Gibson, principal prosecution witnesses, have been branded with foul epithets by certain members, according to Vandoren.

"The 'pig woman' is a — — — dirty liar," one of the jurors is alleged to have said.

Another is quoted as saying:—"Simpson is a — — — and I wouldn't believe him. He thinks he can come here from Jersey City and run our county. We'll show him when the verdict comes in."

Called Attitude Unfair

Vandoren further claims he talked with the jurors and advised them their attitude was unfair. He claims Jurors Tellan, Young and Hope had expressed intentions of showing Hudson county that "it could not run Somerset."

The hotel proprietor is the third largest taxpayer in Somerset county, and consequently will pay increased taxes if there is another trial.

"I wouldn't mix up in this thing for \$10,000," he said, "but rather than see the honor of the county besmirched I will swear on the witness stand to these facts if the court desires."

THE WEATHER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1926.



U. S. WEATHER FORECAST

LOCAL—Fair and colder tonight; Wednesday fair and warmer; colder Wednesday night and Thursday; moderate northerly winds, becoming southerly to westerly Wednesday.

EASTERN NEW YORK—Fair tonight; colder in south portion; Wednesday increasing cloudiness, probably followed by rain in north and central portions; warmer in south portion; colder Wednesday night; diminishing northerly winds, becoming southerly and increasing Wednesday.

Henry Stevens's Alibi Attacked by Writing Expert

By LEO J. CASEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 30.—The diary of Henry Stevens became the target of Special Prosecutor Simpson's attack today.

As soon as court opened, the state started calling its rebuttal witnesses, with August Hartkorn, handwriting



Mrs. Hall



Willie Stevens

expert, as the first. He was asked concerning certain entries in the diary and testified that three pencils had been used in marking the entry of September 14, 1922, the date the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills were murdered.

It has been the claim of the prosecution that Stevens filled in the date some days later.

Small Crowd on Hand

For the first time since the trial started the courtroom was only half filled today. The corridors were deserted, there were no waiting throngs outside.

Indications are that the fourteen witnesses Simpson intends to call in rebuttal may be finished by late this afternoon. It is possible that the special prosecutor may then make a motion for a mistrial, based on the jury's alleged inattentiveness and a report it already had decided to acquit Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and her brothers, Willie and Henry Stevens.

Expert Called

When court was called at 10.15 Simpson asked that the examination of August Hartkorn, handwriting expert, be deferred while

(Continued on Page 6)

Governor Moore Urged To Dismiss Simpson

The following is reprinted from today's issue of the Newark Ledger:—

SIMPSON AT HIS WORST

By L. T. RUSSELL

In keeping with his conduct throughout the Hall-Mills trial, Simpson has finished befitting the circus clown by a public announcement that he will demand a mistrial.

It is difficult to be temperate in the face of the performance Simpson has carried on in the name of New Jersey, with Somerville as a stage and the world as a scoffing audience.

It is equally difficult to understand how a man of Governor Moore's moral and intellectual standing could have permitted this burlesque upon the state to continue from day to day in the face of obvious and evident disaster to the state.

Nothing could more clearly epitomize the utter and complete flop of this political circus performance than Simpson's swan song of yesterday.

After almost a year of continuous newspaper notoriety and detective work, he has failed to produce an iota of evidence that wasn't considered and discarded four years ago.

Now, that the case has collapsed to a degree where it has become a ridiculous farce to all except those who realize the harm it has done the State of New Jersey, this hee-hawing donkey has the audacity to suggest a mistrial and a retrial, with a repetition of all the public has tolerated since the evil hour fates led Governor Moore to place him in charge of this post-mortem interment.

If Hague and Moore are insensible to public decency and the good name of this state, they at least ought to be sensible to political disaster that awaits them if they do not disavow Simpson.

And the least that Governor Moore can now do is to dismiss Simpson and apologize to the State of New Jersey and explain to the world at large how utterly ashamed and humiliated he is at this spectacle.

DEAN PENALIZED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (By U. P.).—The Rev. F. S. M. Bennett, dean of Chester Cathedral, England, has left here for Boston to appeal against a customs decision penalizing him more than \$700 because of mistaken valuation of some imported books.

SIX MEXICANS KILLED

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., Nov. 30.—Six Mexicans were killed at Las Ruolas Ranch, four miles north of Matamoros, Mexico, yesterday when agrarians attempted to seize the 3,500-acre ranch of the J. P. Fernandez estate, an American property.